Collapsing of roads and rail road bridges

335. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of collapsing of roads and rail-road bridges during the last one year resulting in heavy loss of human lives, for example, the UT Daman Road accident on 28th August, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of existing guidelines to ensure that regular surveys are undertaking by the State Governments or other agencies to ensure proper upkeep and traffic worthiness of such bridges; and

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to adopt for safety of road bridges when the road building activities all around the country are on high priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) There is no reported incidence of loss of human lives due to collapse of road and rail-road bridges during the last one year on the National Highways.

(b) In order to ensure proper upkeep and traffic worhtiness of bridges, detailed guidelines for highway bridges inspection and maintenance contained in IRC Special Publication No. 35 "Guidelines for Inspection and Maintenance of bridges", IRC Special Publication No. 18 "Manual for Highway Bridge Maintenance Inspection" and IRC Special Publication No. 52 "Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual" are being followed.

(c) Does not arise.

National Highway Project

†336. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to complete the 7,300 km road construction work during the second phase of the National Highways Project by December, 2007;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto and the extent of work so far completed; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.